

Attorney Docket No.: 960296.95360
Applicant: Ronald T. Raines
Application No.: 09/234,028 Filed: 01/20/1999
Date of Office Action: 12 DEC 2008
Group Art Unit: 1652
Examiner: Richard G. Hutson
Date of Response: February 12, 2009

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An oxidation-resistant engineered ribonuclease inhibitor (RI) ~~variant~~ selected from the group consisting of
 - (i) ~~[[an]] a RI variant differing from~~ comprising the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the difference consists of except for an alanine substitution of at least one cysteine residue at position positions 95, 96, 329 ~~or~~ and 330; and
 - (ii) ~~[[an]] a RI variant differing from~~ comprising the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the difference consists of except for an alanine substitution of at least one cysteine residue at position positions 324 ~~or~~ and 325,
the ~~variant~~ RI having a greater resistance to oxidation relative to the reference sequence for the ~~variant~~ RI and retaining its specificity and binding affinity to ribonuclease.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) The ~~ribonuclease inhibitor variant RI of claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the difference alanine substitution inhibits the formation of a disulfide bond with an adjacent cysteine residue.

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5. (Currently amended) The ~~ribonuclease inhibitor variant~~ RI of ~~claim 18~~ Claim 1, wherein the ~~variant~~ RI is 10 to 15 fold more resistant to oxidative damage than a ~~native ribonuclease inhibitor~~ an RI comprising the relevant reference sequence.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The ~~ribonuclease inhibitor variant~~ RI of ~~claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the ~~variant~~ RI exhibits an *in vitro* inhibition of ribonucleolytic activity.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The ~~ribonuclease inhibitor variant~~ RI of ~~claim~~ Claim 18, ~~having~~ wherein the RI retains specificity and affinity of SEQ ID NO:3 for binding to angiogenin ~~of the reference SEQ ID NO:3~~.

10. - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) An oxidation-resistant ribonuclease inhibitor (RI) ~~variant differing from~~ comprising the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, ~~wherein the difference consists of~~ except for an alanine residue at ~~position~~ one or more of positions 95, 96, 329 ~~or~~ and 330.

19. (Currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The RI ~~variant~~ of Claim 18, wherein the residues at positions 329 and 330 ~~being~~ are alanine residues.

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20. (Currently amended) An oxidation-resistant ribonuclease inhibitor (RI) ~~variant~~ ~~differing from~~ comprising the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the difference consists of except for an alanine residue at position one or both of positions 324 or and 325.

21. (Currently amended) ~~[[An]]The RI variant~~ of Claim 20, wherein the residues at positions 324 and 325 ~~being~~ are alanine residues.

22. (Currently amended) ~~[[An]]The RI variant~~ of Claim 18, wherein the residues at positions 95 and 96 ~~being~~ are alanine residues.

23. (Currently amended) ~~[[An]]The RI variant~~ of Claim 18, wherein the residues at positions 95, 96, 329 and 330 ~~being~~ are alanine residues.